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From the above it will appear that smallpox is on the increase, but such I do not believe to be the case. The increased number of cases in my opinion is solely due to the fact that the inspectors have discovered many cases that have heretofore been concealed, many of which would never have been discovered but for the thorough examination of each house.

As to the possible duration of the epidemic I can form no opinion that would be of value. Many persons have been vaccinated, but many others have evaded the inspectors. I hope, however, to see considerable improvement in the situation by the middle of February. The mayor of Birmingham, the commissioners of Jefferson County, and officials everywhere, with the exception of Pratt City, have aided and supported me in every way in their power.

Respectfully, yours,

G. M. MAGRUDER,
Passed Assistant-Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Smallpox in Pinckard, Ala.

PINCKARD, ALA., *January 23, 1898.*

SIR: We are in the midst of an epidemic of smallpox, and unable to down the disease. Kindly use your influence to have us put under United States quarantine laws. The disease is becoming serious, and I hope that you will lose no time in extending us your assistance.

Hoping to hear from you promptly,

I am, yours, very truly,

J. W. HARRIS,
Mayor.

Hon. H. D. CLAYTON, M. C.

Smallpox in Shelby, Ala.

[Telegram.]

COLUMBIANA, ALA., *January 28, 1898.*

One case of smallpox in Shelby, a mining town. Several persons exposed.

D. R. McMILLAN.

Smallpox decreasing in Washington County, Florida.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., *January 31, 1898.*

SIR: Supplementing my letter of January 24 wherein I notified your office of the existence of smallpox in Washington County, Fla., permit me to state that at this writing the situation thereat is very much improved. There seems to be very few additional cases, and vaccination is proceeding rapidly and thoroughly. I omitted to state in my former letter that the disease was distinctly traced to the State of Alabama, a fact which I regret not having given prominence to in the said foregoing communication.

Very truly, yours,

JOSEPH Y. PORTER,
State Health Officer, Florida.

The above letter was referred to the Supervising Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, who telegraphed to the passed assistant surgeon in charge of the smallpox epidemic in Alabama, requesting that he visit the locality named and report upon same.